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NEWS

Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W.

Washington, D. C. 20554

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC. 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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ABERNATHY INTRODUCES "NEWS YOU CAN USE" INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

Washington, D.C. – Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy has announced the launch of her "News You Can Use" information campaign. Periodically, the Commissioner will focus on a public interest issue relating to communication policy and will feature it in her speeches, on her website, and in interviews with the press.

"I want to make sure that we at the FCC are paying attention to issues that make a difference in people's lives outside the beltway," Commissioner Abernathy explained. "Looking after the public interest is an important part of the Commission's mission," she stated, adding that she intends to make that task a priority during her tenure at the FCC.

Though only in office since May, Commissioner Abernathy said that she has been struck by the number of consumers who feel confused and frustrated by their communications services. A couple of topics that have generated a number of consumer complaints are unsolicited telemarketing calls and slamming, when consumers' phone service is changed without their permission. These two issues will be the first subjects addressed by "News You Can Use."

Following is a copy of the Commissioner's website column on "Do-Not-Call Lists", the latest "News You Can Use" topic. Commissioner Abernathy said she plans to make herself available for press interviews on this – or any other – communications public interest topic.

"News You Can Use" is featured on the Commissioner's website at http://www.fcc.gov/commissioners/abernathy/news.html.